

SENATE RESOLUTION 129

By Kilby

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Gregory Hicks,
United States Army, of Campbell County,
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Sergeant 1st Class Gregory Hicks of the First Calvary Division, United States Army, made the ultimate sacrifice of his life on January 8, 2004, in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Hicks was in the process of being transported back to the U.S. after sustaining injuries in the line of duty, when the U.S. Army helicopter on which he was a passenger crashed in Fallujah; the death of this brave soldier is mourned by a grateful nation, fellow soldiers stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, the community of Cotula, and his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, a native of Duff, Tennessee, Sgt. Hicks enlisted in the U.S. Army in June of 1986 after graduating from Wynn High School in May; he proudly served his country in the Persian Gulf War and was deployed to Iraq in October of this past year; Sgt. Hicks had been serving as the Platoon Sergeant with Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Calvary Regiment in Habbaniyah, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, this superlative individual and conscientious soldier received numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal with

three Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Kuwait Liberation Medal for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Professional Development Ribbon with three Awards, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon with second Award, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Expert Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Hicks served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed; for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, this Senate joins with Sgt. Hicks' wife, Melinda, his children, Jennifer and Christopher, his parents, Clayton and Flora Hicks, his brother, Stephen Hicks, and his sisters, Sandra Parker and Minnie Baird in mourning the untimely death of this courageous young American; he will be remembered by his family, his fellow soldiers, and his many friends for his sense of honor, duty, and courage, his love of life and his loyalty and conviction; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean, Sergeant 1st Class Gregory Hicks, performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism -- service which can only be categorized as outstanding --- and it is fitting that this body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional soldier and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the memory of Sergeant 1st Class Gregory Hicks of Colta, Tennessee, and express our deep gratitude for his heroic sacrifice for his nation and the cause of freedom; his valor and commitment will live in our hearts as an enduring example of all that is good and noble in service to country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby join with the citizens of Tennessee and all Americans in extending to the family of Sgt. Hicks our profound condolences for the loss of this brave young man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.